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REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 4 - 10, 14 - 16, 20, 24 - 26, 30, 34 - 36, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The Examiner further rejected Claims 1, 3, 7 - 9, 11, 13, 17 - 19, 21, 23, 27 - 29, 31, 33 and 37 - 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brogné et al. in view of Milewski et al. Claims 4 - 6, 10, 14 - 16, 20, 24 - 26, 30, 34 - 36 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brogné et al. in view of Milewski et al. and further in view of what is well known in the art.

Applicants have amended Claims 4, 7, 10, 14, 20, 24, 30, 34 and 40 to overcome the 112 rejection made thereto. Particularly, Applicants have changed the term "**may be**" in Claims 4, 10, 14, 20, 24, 30, 34 and 40 to "**is**", and replaced the word "**user**" in Claim 7 with the word "**sender**". Applicants believe that the 112 rejection has been overcome and kindly request its withdrawal.

Applicants have also amended independent Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 to overcome the 103 rejection made thereto. Support for the added limitations "determining whether one of the recipients from the list of recipients has accessed the stored e-mail message;" can be found on page 14, line 23 to page 15, line 3.

Support for the added limitations "enabling the sender, in response to determining that one of the recipients from the list of recipients has accessed the stored e-mail message and using the notification message, to preclude one of the recipients from the list of recipients that have not yet accessed the stored e-mail message from accessing the stored e-mail message" can be found on page 14, line 23 to page 15, line 3.

Since support for the added limitations is in the originally-filed Specification, no new matter has been added to the Application.

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By this amendment, Claims 1, 3 – 11, 13 – 21, 23 – 31 and 33 - 40 remain pending in the Application. For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable over the applied references. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claims 1 and 7 are illustrative.

1. A method of rescinding previously transmitted e-mail messages by a sender, the messages being addressed to a list of recipients, the method comprising:

storing an e-mail message addressed to a list of recipients on a computing system;

generating a notification message, the notification message for allowing recipients from the list of recipients and the sender to access the stored e-mail message;

sending the notification message to the recipients from the list of recipients and to the sender;

determining whether one of the recipients from the list of recipients has accessed the stored e-mail message; and

enabling the sender, in response to determining that one of the recipients from the list of recipients has accessed the stored e-mail message and using the notification message, to preclude one of the recipients from the list of recipients that have not yet accessed the stored e-mail message from accessing the stored e-mail message. (Emphasis added.)

7. A method of modifying a previously transmitted e-mail message by a sender, the message being addressed to a list of recipients, the method comprising the steps of:

storing the e-mail message on a computing system;

generating a notification message, the notification message for allowing recipients from the list of recipients and the sender to access the stored e-mail message;

sending the notification message to the recipients from the list of recipients and to the sender; and

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enabling the sender to modify the stored e-mail message using the notification wherein the enabling step includes:

determining whether at least one recipient from the list of recipients has already accessed the stored e-mail message;

displaying the list of recipients and a copy of the stored e-mail message to the user wherein all recipients from the list of recipients that are determined to have already accessed the stored e-mail message are displayed in a distinguishing fashion from recipients that have not already accessed the stored e-mail message;

allowing the sender to modify the displayed copy of the stored e-mail message and to send the modified copy to the recipients that have not already accessed the stored e-mail message; and

replacing the stored e-mail message with the modified copy once the modified copy is sent to the recipients that have not already accessed the stored e-mail message. (Emphasis added.)

Applicants submit that the claims, as presently drafted, are patentable over Brogné et al. in view of Milewski et al.

Brogné et al. purport to teach a method of manipulating an already sent e-mail message. According to the teachings of Brogné et al., a sender of an e-mail message may retract or modify the e-mail message so long as the e-mail message has not yet been accessed by an addressee. To allow the sender to retract or modify the e-mail message, the e-mail message is sent to a server, where the body of the message is stored together with an access code. The server then sends a notification of the e-mail message to the addressees. The notification includes the access code. The server keeps tab on whether the e-mail message has been accessed. When the server receives a modification message dedicated to modify the stored e-mail message, the server will allow the

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stored e-mail message to be modified if and only if the e-mail body of the message has not yet been accessed by any one of the addressees.

Thus, Brogné et al. do not teach, show or suggest that addressees of the e-mail message can be precluded from reading the message. Therefore, Brogné et al. do not teach *enabling the sender, in response to determining that one of the recipients from the list of recipients has accessed the stored e-mail message and using the notification message, to preclude one of the recipients from the list of recipients that have not yet accessed the stored e-mail message from accessing the stored e-mail message* as claimed in Claim 1.

The Examiner asserted that Brogné et al. "disclose the sender has access to the e-mail message as long as all recipients have not retrieved it (Fig. 3)."

However, whether or not Brogné et al. disclose that the sender has access to the e-mail message as long as all recipients have not retrieved the message is irrelevant. What is relevant is whether or not Brogné et al. teach or disclose that the sender may exclude recipients from accessing the e-mail message after one or more other recipients have accessed the message.

In Figs. 3 and 5, Brogné et al. disclose that if read_status is not equal to zero (i.e., if one recipient has accessed the message), the sender cannot modify/delete the e-mail message (see boxes 321, 322, 323 and 324 of Fig. 3 and boxes 521, 522, 523 and 524 of Fig. 5). Further, in col. 2, line 6, col. 2, lines 21 – 25, col. 5, line 56 to col. 6, line 14 and col. 8, lines 35 – 51, Brogné et al. specifically teach that a sender of an e-mail message may retract or modify the e-mail message *so long as the e-mail message has not yet been accessed by anyone of the addressees*.

Thus, Brogné et al. do not teach the claimed limitations of "*enabling the sender, in response to determining that one of the recipients from the list of recipients has accessed the stored e-mail message and using the notification message, to preclude one of the recipients from the list of*

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recipients that have not yet accessed the stored e-mail message from accessing the stored e-mail message" as in Claim 1.

Claim 7 includes the limitations:

> **displaying the list of recipients and a copy of the stored e-mail message to the user wherein all recipients from the list of recipients that are determined to have already accessed the stored e-mail message are displayed in a distinguishing fashion from recipients that have not already accessed the stored e-mail message;**
> **allowing the sender to modify the displayed copy of the stored e-mail message and to send the modified copy to the recipients that have not already accessed the stored e-mail message; and**
> **replacing the stored e-mail message with the modified copy once the modified copy is sent to the recipients that have not already accessed the stored e-mail message**

As mentioned above, Brogné et al. specifically teach that a sender of an e-mail message may retract or modify the e-mail message *so long as the e-mail message has not yet been accessed by anyone of the addressees*.

Therefore, Brogné et al. do not teach *displaying the list of recipients and a copy of the stored e-mail message to the user wherein all recipients from the list of recipients that are determined to have already accessed the stored e-mail message are displayed in a distinguishing fashion from recipients that have not already accessed the stored e-mail message, allowing the sender to modify the displayed copy of the stored e-mail message and to send the modified copy to the recipients that have not already accessed the stored e-mail message; and replacing the stored e-mail message with the modified copy once the modified copy is sent to the recipients that have not already accessed the stored e-mail message* as claimed in Claim 7.
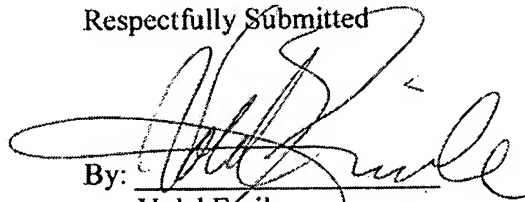
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Consequently, even if the Examiner is correct in asserting that Milewski et al. disclose generating and sending a notification message to the sender and intended recipients of a message and that notification message enabling the sender to perform operations on the stored message, combining the teachings of Brogné et al. with those of Milewski et al. does not teach the invention as claimed in Claims 1 and 7.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 7 as well as their dependent claims are allowable over the applied references. The other independent claims (i.e., Claims 11, 17, 21, 27, 31 and 37) as well as their dependent claims, which all include the emboldened/italicized limitations in the above-reproduced Claims 1 and 7, are allowable as well over the applied references.

Hence, Applicants once more respectfully request reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims in the application.

Respectfully Submitted

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